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Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

transient

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Main Entry: ¹tran·sient ◂ ◃

Pronunciation: -sh (E-) &nt, -zE-&nt, -sE-; -zh&nt, -j&nt

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Latin *transeunt-*, *transiens*, present participle of *transire* to cross, pass by, from *trans-* + *ire* to go -- more at [ISSUE](#)

1 a : passing especially quickly into and out of existence : **TRANSITORY** <*transient* beauty> **b** : passing through or by a place with only a brief stay or sojourn <*transient* visitors>
2 : affecting something or producing results beyond itself
- **tran·sient·ly** *adverb*

synonyms **TRANSIENT**, **TRANSITORY**, **EPHEMERAL**, **MOMENTARY**, **FUGITIVE**, **FLEETING**, **EVANESCENT** mean lasting or staying only a short time. **TRANSIENT** applies to what is actually short in its duration or stay <a hotel catering primarily to *transient* guests>. **TRANSITORY** applies to what is by its nature or essence bound to change, pass, or come to an end <fame in the movies is *transitory*>. **EPHEMERAL** implies striking brevity of life or duration <many slang words are *ephemeral*>. **MOMENTARY** suggests coming and going quickly and therefore being merely a brief interruption of a more enduring state <my feelings of guilt were only *momentary*>. **FUGITIVE** and **FLEETING** imply passing so quickly as to make apprehending difficult <let a *fugitive* smile flit across his face> <*fleeting* moments of



transient

joy>. EVANESCENT suggests a quick vanishing and an airy or fragile quality <the story has an *evanescent* touch of whimsy that is lost in translation>.

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